



Hands-On, Experiential Environmental Education

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Fox River Country Day School



Overview

- ✿ Why Connecting Children with Nature is Important
- ✿ A Unique Campus
- ✿ Environmental Program

Why Revive Children's Sense of Kinship with Nature?

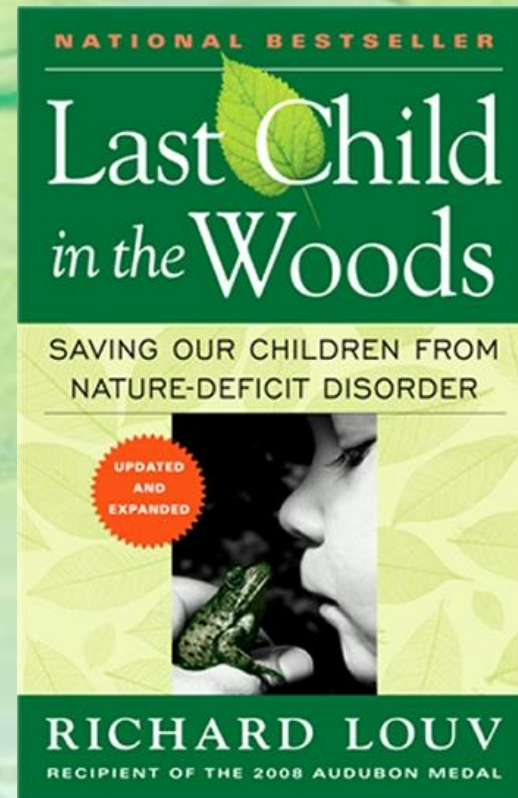
- ✿ Latest scientific research
- ✿ Increase self-esteem
- ✿ Decrease symptoms of ADD
- ✿ Wholesome and balanced emotional, physical, cognitive and social development
- ✿ Healthy, sustainable future



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“Our children are the first generation to be raised without meaningful contact with the natural world.”

-Richard Louv
author, Last Child in the Woods



A Unique Campus



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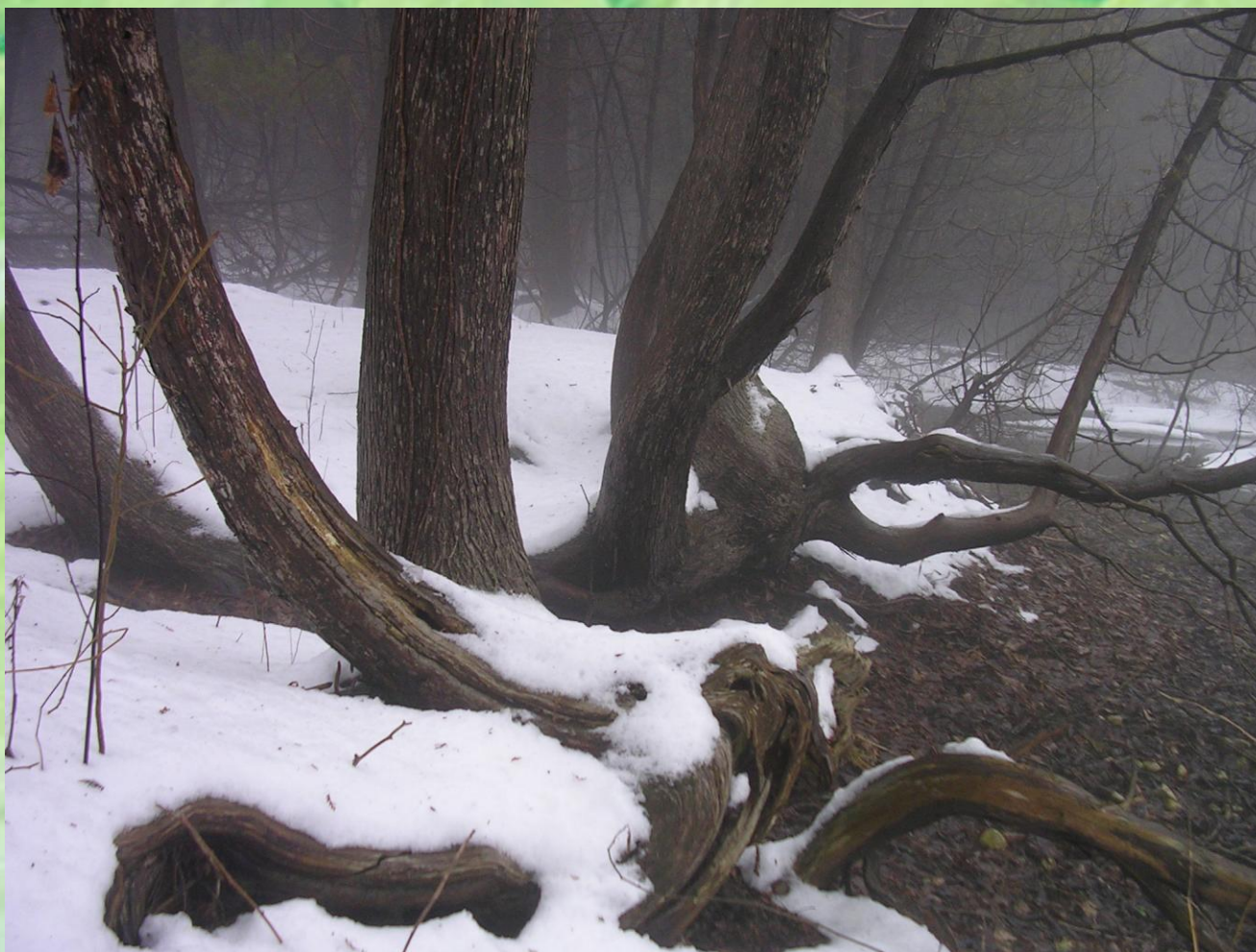


Along the Fox River, Elgin

- ✿ Independent school (PreK - 8th Grade)
- ✿ 75 year commitment
- ✿ 60 acres
- ✿ Forested Fen, Calcareous Seep, Oak Woodland (Bur Oaks)
- ✿ Illinois Natural Heritage Landmark
- ✿ Rare and endangered species



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FRCDS Environmental Program

- ✿ Intimate, meaningful connections
- ✿ Engaging, direct experience
- ✿ Outside, (almost) every day, rain or shine
- ✿ Empathy, Awareness, Action
- ✿ Two naturalists on staff




Kids' Cove

- ✿ Student driven natural playground
- ✿ Student planned, designed and implemented
- ✿ Spontaneous, unstructured play
- ✿ Pond, trails, logs, tree-house, restoration



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Bee Hive

- ✿ Life cycles of insects
- ✿ Students assist in annual honey harvesting



Organic Garden

- ✿ Students plant, dig and tend
- ✿ Beans, tomatoes, spices, potatoes, carrots, etc.
- ✿ Rain barrel
- ✿ Greater connection to food
- ✿ Benefits of local commerce



Butterfly Garden

- ✿ Student assisted construction/planting
- ✿ Native plants/flowers/insects
- ✿ Insect life cycles
- ✿ Student fundraisers, grants



Rain Garden

- ✿ Native flowers/grasses
- ✿ Allows runoff water from lawns, roof, sidewalks, parking lots etc. to slowly percolate
- ✿ Cleans, filters and recharges water
- ✿ Students learn of watersheds, the water cycle
- ✿ Student fundraisers, grants



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Volunteer Days (Fen Days)

- ✿ Students, families, local community
- ✿ Stewardship, restoration work
- ✿ Weekends
- ✿ Native seed gathering/sewing, controlled burns, trail maintenance, invasive species removal, etc.



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Stewardship Crew

- ✿ Middle school elective
- ✿ Restoration, trail maintenance, invasive removal



Costa Rica

- ✿ 8th grade capstone
- ✿ First hand understandings of how our decisions have a global impact



A Sustainable Future

- ✿ High Schools with strong Environmental Science programs
- ✿ Future leaders and decision makers
- ✿ Model pieces of our program for other schools

Fox River Country Day School

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